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NEWS ITEM

Tajikistan's President Visits USAID Local Governance Project



*President of Tajikistan Rahmonov reviews a list of trainings and their participants at the training center run by the USAID Local Governance Initiative Project.
Photo: Urban Institute*

During his recent trip to Kurgan-tube and Bokhtar rayon, President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmonov paid a brief visit to a USAID-funded training center located in Khatlon Oblast, Khukumat Administration. The training center is part of USAID's Local Governance Initiative-II Project. The project, implemented by Urban Institute, helps draft legislation, builds local government capacity through training, and supports the Government's working group which leads reform efforts. The project operates three training centers in the cities of Kurgan-tube, Dushanbe, and Khojend. As of October 2005, the project has trained 260 local government staff and councilors from cities and districts across Tajikistan.

President Rahmonov's visit to the project's training center is an important sign of approval for USAID's efforts. The President was introduced to the

center's activities and inspected the equipment used for trainings. The Governor of Khatlon Oblast Miraliev Amizsho Mizalievich, who invited the President to the center, explained that the USAID project provided the equipment and conducts training for his officials, as well as for the officials of other cities in his oblast.

The project provides training and technical assistance to local governments in financial and budget management, costing, fee appraisal, and communal service improvement through long term planning and management systems. The project also provides technical assistance to the Presidential Working Group for Local Government Reform, including research, training on decentralization and financial reforms, study tours, consultant support, and organizational support to the development of the ten-year Strategy for Local Government Reform.